

CGC SENECA: "DUE SOUTH" PATROL!

24 MAY-21 JULY 2008

AHOY Friends and family and crew of SENECA!
Simply put, we're happy to be home. From fire fighting school to "steel beach" sunburns, we had our fair share of the heat and are thankful to be back in our city of Celtics fans.

"I wanted Freedom,
Open Air,
Adventure-
I found it on the sea." -Alain Gerbault



Once again, it was an eclectic patrol and we're looking forward to regaling our seaworthy trials and tribulations with you. Ask any of the crew, there's never a dull moment...enjoy the newsletter!
-ENS Hicks, PAO



DECK DEPARTMENT:

BEACH SAND: The color of paint Deckie's love most. You need something painted? Just call 2-5-5, and they'll meet you at the paint locker! "Once for dust, twice for rust" as they say. ... so when Deck Department wasn't out battling the running rust, they were setting up tents

for migrant operations, manning up the small boats for go-fast chases, and training up for man overboard, towing, and navigation drills. Deck Department all agreed, that while it was a chaotic patrol, at least there was always celestial navigation and flag hoisting drills to look forward to at the end of the day. To LTJG Hart: You lead the way big guy. -0.5LT To BM1 McLeod: We're still digging through your paperwork! To BM3 Dunlap: Reveille, Reveille, Reveille. . .

To BM1 Nawrocki:

Thanks for taking care of us.

"I would have sank without him."

- BM1 Perry





THE BAHAMAS!!!



3 day trip to Bahamas on Carnival Cruise liner:

WAY MORE MONEY than 3 day trip to Bahamas on
Coast Guard Cutter SENECA!



“A tourist remains an outsider throughout his
visit; but a sailor is part of the
local scene from the moment he arrives.”

-Anne Davison

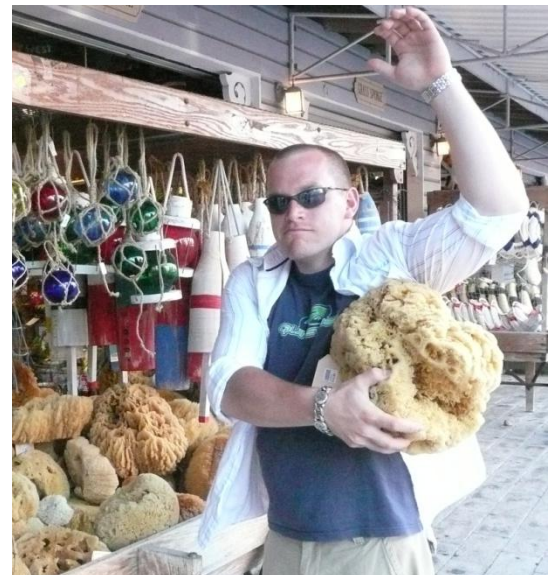
PORT CALL! Nassau Bahamas- On June 18th, After a few days of beaches, jet ski's, casinos, and relaxation, 20 crewmembers volunteered their hard earned liberty time giving back to the community of Nassau. With some muscle-power and a machete-happy crew, the crew perilously attacked a forsaken plot of land infiltrated with poisoned plants. SENECA helped clear over a mile of nature trails for the Bahamas Association for Social Health (BASH), a non-profit substance abuse and rehabilitation facility. In keeping with the programs philosophy that nature helps in the recovery process, the residents at BASH maintain the trails and raise money by offering horseback riding and nature walking tours...and they had bunnies, for MPA to play with.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

With brand new fitness equipment and impeccable weather, the crew jumped full force into work out sessions and fitness goals. As soon as SENECA moored up at port calls, the crew went out to play basketball and volleyball games, with some All-American softball on the 4th of July. Underway, ENS Collier and 1/C Cadet Denny initiated SENECA's Core Strengthening

program on the flight deck, FS1 Bishop kicked off healthy meal options in the galley, and 21 crewmembers weighed in to play "The Biggest Loser" for some prize liberty following the patrol.



ENS Kelly promoting alternative hygiene options.

ENGINEERING DEPT.



“...he was now convinced that the most valuable sail on board was the diesel. “

-Ray Kauffman

unexpected dress-

transit south from Boston. Actual casualties included flooding in aft steering, a Charlie fire, hydraulic oil leak in Aux 2, hydraulic leak from

the small boat davit, a ruptured lube oil gauge on the Number 2 main diesel engine (at 0400 no less), and a crank case exhaust failure on the Number 2 main. Just thinking about all these casualties is tiring, to say nothing of actually fixing them! Yet the engineers came through, as they always do, with flying colors. Each situation was resolved quickly, efficiently, and without injury. The crew of SENECA sleeps well at night because we know our engineers are standing a vigilant watch.

When the engineers weren't busy responding to actual casualties, they were training others how to prevent damage. And whoever said DC training had to be boring? DC Jeopardy on the mess deck turned into a highly competitive affair. The spirit of DC competition was fueled by the Captain who raised the stakes by offering prizes including a pizza party, 24 hour liberty pass, first down the brow in Boston, and an Over the Horizon boat ride. Congratulations to the winners: ENS Wiltshire, ENS Highfield, Doc, ET2 Scheidel, OS2 Bryant, MK2 Ronin, SN Fischer, FN Lopez, and Cadet Wilson.



“IF YOU CAN'T REPAIR IT. MAYBE IT SHOULDN'T BE ON BOARD.”

-LARRY PARDEY

AWARDS:

Letter of Appreciation:

FN Hall

Letter of Commendation:

LTJG Robinson, BM3 Dunlap, OS3 Stephen, LTJG Leyko, ENS Collier, MK2 Eckert, YN1 Brown

Achievement Medal:

BM1 Nawrocki, OS1 Lombardi, CWO Marshall, GM1 Hammell, LTJG Hart, FS2 Hogan

Commendation Medal:

OS2 Bryant

Permanent Cutterman:

BM1 Nawrocki



ADVANCEMENTS: Congratulations!

CDR Gagnier, GM1 Hammell
BM3 Gercon, MK3 Mackenzie
FS3 Obsuna, SN Moisa

SUPPORT DEPT: A huge shout out to Support Department

for doing just that; helping out with the watch rotations on the flight deck, making sure parts for the engines came in, nursing the crew through sunburns and seasickness, tracking advancements and awards, and keeping spirits high with the amazing meals.... Thank you!



WELCOME TO SENECA!!!

DC1 Florezadams, OSC Wohlander
MKC Ortiz, EMC Purifory
MK2 Pinero, FS1 Bishop
FS3 Obsuna, MK2 Ronin
MK3 Haak, ENS Cloonan
BM2 Decoste, ENS Highfield
OS2 Ortiz, ENS Stevens
ENS Zukowski, DC3 McDowall
FS3 Reid, BM3 Voegtlin
MK3 Williams, FA Lane
OS2 Leavell

FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS:

YN1 Brown
OS2 Bryant
BM3 Dunlap
MK2 Eckert
LTJG Hart
FS2 Hogan
LTJG "MFDCA" Leyko
BM1 Nawrocki
OS2 Stephan
MKC Marshall
OS1 "Tactical" Lombardi
LTJG Robinson
ENS "Bull of the CG" Collier
OSC Perseille, COB



Galley of the Year- AGAIN!!!

"You guys had baked avocados at lunch today! Who does that?! They don't even make those on the Food Network! "

—ATG Rider

April 5th, 2008- CG Read Adm. Mark Tedesco, Director of CG Health and Safety program presented FS1 DeLeon with the International Food Service Executives Association Dining Facility of the Year Award for the Large Afloat Category. The award is SENECA's second consecutive Dining Facility of the Year Award.



"Don't stand along the shoreline
...and say you're satisfied.
Choose to chance the rapids,
Dare to dance the tide"
-Garth Brooks



FS3 Rod-Rod cooking dinner on the fantail



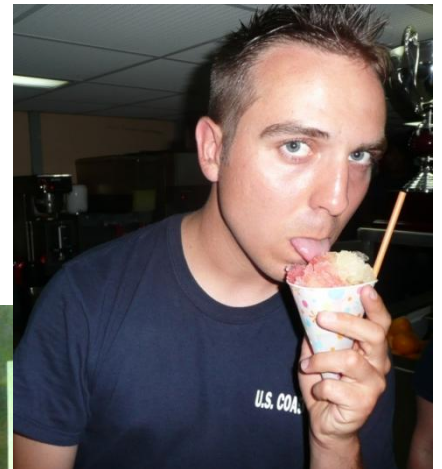
"Do they ask me what pleasure I find on the sea?
- Why, absence from land is a pleasure to me!
A hamper of porter, and plenty of grog,
A friend, when too sleepy, to give me a jog.
...A crew that is brisk when it happens to blow,
One compass on deck and another below,
The man that has these, has a treasure in store
That millions possess not who live upon shore."

-Philip Freneau

MORALE

Work hard, play hard! In between drills, training, and migrant operations, the crew was beside themselves with ridiculous amounts of free time for morale. Food, of course, is always a big motivator, so the Chief's pizza night, BM3 Javier's wing nights, nacho nights, and Sunday Sundae's were all high on our list of things to look forward to throughout the week (not to mention GM1 Hammell's 5lb horseradish eating competition).

ENS Stevens hooked up the crew with a PJ's-and-popcorn-induced movie night on the flight deck, and ENS Pichette set up a golf tournament in Mayport- where ENS Collier, IT2 Whipkey, and ET2 Scheidel won by 2 strokes. LTJG Leyko and LTJG Hart hosted an amazing Wetting Down party at Schooners in Key West, SENECA embarrassed DECISIVE 40-11 in softball, and ENS Cloonan beat FN Sharpe in a swimming competition. Thanks to our Morale Officer, ENS Pichette, and all of the help he had from the crew throughout the patrol!



SN Neill with a Snoopy Sno-Cone



FISH CALL!!! SN Wentworth caught a black fin tuna, SN Jones caught a bluefish, and MK3 Mackenzie caught both!

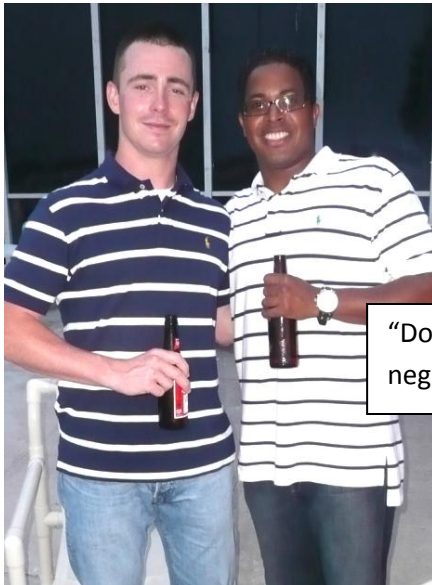


Wardroom Morale...

The 4th of July

On July 4th, ENS Pichette was kind enough to work with the FS's and put together a BBQ at the Naval Station Mayport Pavilion. BM1 Perry cooked

burgers and the officers smoked the crew 18-6 at the O's vs. E's Softball Game. Chief Perseille beat FN Lopez at a game of 1 on 1 basketball, and shortly thereafter the sky lit up with the fireworks from Jacksonville beach.



"Does anyone else think they look like photo negatives of each other?" –ET2 Scheidel

BM2 DeCoste vs. FS1 Bishop (BM2 reigned)



OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT:

"NOW, SET THE GO FAST BILL!" Is there really any better way to wake up at 0300? SENECA received several of these wake up calls courtesy of the Operations Department this patrol. Stations were manned, intelligence reports analyzed, courses plotted, and in one case the OTH was launched, yielding an assist on the apprehension of two smugglers. Finding a Go-Fast is quite the challenge and the Operations Department did a great job this patrol keeping their eyes (and radars) peeled 24/7. Still, this is not an exact science. As the old adage goes- "One man's Go-Fast is another man's 87' Patrol Boat" "NOW, STAND DOWN FROM THE GO FAST BILL"

From climbing the mast to repairing antennas to troubleshooting SENECA's internet connection the ET/IT shop worked hard to keep the ship fully mission capable. They kept the e-mails flowing so we could all communicate with our loved ones no matter how far away from Boston we traveled.

The Weapons division conducted a pyrotechnics exercise and gun shoot. They even taught two Coast Guard Academy professors how to light off flares and fire the .50s!



GM1 Hammell showing Professor Stutzman how to shoot off flares.



OS2 Picerne with a frog-stowaway.

"Without patience,
a sailor I would never be."
-Lee Allred

“The art of the sailor is to leave
nothing to chance.”

-Annie Van De Wiele

TACT 2008

No Higher Honor- In 1988 the USS Samuel B. Roberts was escorting tankers in the Persian Gulf when an Iranian mine ripped open its engine room and ignited fires on four decks. The crew fought flames and flooding into the night, refusing to evacuate. Today this story helps emphasize how damage control efforts, teamwork, and pride kept a ship afloat.



TACT stands for Tailored Annual Cutter Training, to test the ships level of readiness...each year CG cutters on the Atlantic Coast travel to Little Creek, VA or Mayport, FL to undergo three weeks of rigorous drills and instruction to ensure each cutter is properly trained in damage control efforts and navigation evolutions.

T-1 Days to TACT: Captain mustered the crew and asked, “Why are we here? Why are we about to go through TACT?” After which he called out shipmates to represent the crew of the USS Cole- a U.S. Navy Destroyer that was attacked by a terrorist bombing on October 12, 2000. 17 sailors were killed and 39 more injured in the blast. As the crew of SENECA reflected on why they were about to undergo TACT, Captain answered his own question and said, “Every single one of us has someone to go home to. We are here to learn our jobs. We are here to make sure everyone comes home alive.”

3 Weeks of patching, plugging, rigging, shooting, plotting, towing, rescuing, navigating, saving- and SENECA successfully completed all of the evolutions with the exception of a gunnery exercise scheduled for October.

We came, we conquered, we're heading home. This is what hard work feels like. Victorious.





Change of Command

30 July 2008

Boston, MA- Commander William J. "Willy" Wolter will relieve Commander William Kelly as the Commanding Officer of the cutter *SENECA* in a time-honored ceremony that formally restates the continuity of the commanding officer's authority and represents a total transfer of accountability from one individual to another.



Commander Kelly will be promoted to the rank of Captain and will transfer to the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT to assume the role of the Director for the Coast Guard's Leadership and Development Center.



CDR Kelly, It was an honor to serve under your Command and the *SENECA* crew; I have a great deal of respect for all you have done for us as a leader and Commanding Officer. I wish you the best in your new challenge and endeavors. Thank you for your guidance and support, I would be honored to serve under your Command again.

- BM1 Michael McLeod

Greetings from the Cabin for the Final Time!

"O Captain! My Captain! Our fearful trip is done, the ship has weathered every rock, the prize we sought is won, the port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting."

-Walt Whitman

Greetings to all who support the men and women of *SENECA*. As you have read throughout this awesome newsletter we have had an exciting and busy patrol. We are wrapping up one of the most dynamic patrols I have ever been a part of! We accomplished a lot and we did it all with exceptional enthusiasm and a definite can do attitude. The men and women of *SENECA* can do anything they put their minds to - including catching our first fish of the patrol. It took us almost 45 days in the beautiful waters surrounding Florida, but we caught two after a busy day of drills during our annual training period.

It's time for me to go and move on to my next job in the Coast Guard as the Director of the Services Leadership Development Center in New London, CT. On 30 July I will be finishing up my two years as Commanding Officer in *SENECA* and I am sad to leave, but I am excited to move on to my next job and even more excited to be home with my family each night, they may not be as excited after a month or so, but we'll see! Serving as the CO in *SENECA* has been the highlight of my 21 year career and it will be something I cherish forever. The opportunity to serve with such find shipmates has been an honor. Your family members are doing great work for our nation and their ability to adapt and overcome would make you proud - I know it has made me proud to say that I was their CO.

I wish you all the best
Fair Winds and Following Seas,
Bill Kelly
Captain (select)
U.S. Coast Guard

